

27.5 Capitals for Titles of Things

Capitals are used with the titles of written works and works of art. You should capitalize the first word and all other key words in these titles. The title of a school course is capitalized only when it is followed by a number or refers to a language.

TITLES OF WRITTEN WORKS, WORKS OF ART, AND SCHOOL COURSES	
Books	<i>Swiss Family Robinson, Kontiki</i>
Newspapers and Magazines	<i>The Daily Journal, Outdoor Life</i>
Short Stories and Poems	"The Loser," "Richard Cory"
Full-length Plays	<i>Cats, The Music Man</i>
Movies	<i>Raiders of the Lost Ark, Star Wars</i>
Songs	"Hello Dolly," "Puttin' on the Ritz"
Paintings and Sculptures	<i>Young Woman with a Water Jug, Boxing Match</i>
School Courses	English 2A, German, Science I

EXERCISE A: Using Capitals for Titles of Things. Circle the letters in the titles that require capital letters.

EXAMPLE: The Enchanted Castle—painting

- splash*—movie
- reader's digest*—magazine
- the sign of the beaver*—book
- spanish*—school course
- orlando sentinel*—newspaper
- "you've got a friend"—song
- fiddler on the roof*—play
- the thinker*—sculpture
- jane eyre*—book
- "the bridge"—poem
- the peasant dance*—painting
- composition 2—school course
- "ol' man river"—song
- chariots of fire*—movie
- tucson daily star*—newspaper
- life*—magazine
- the cat in the hat*—book
- haystacks*—painting
- our town*—play
- "trees"—poem

EXERCISE B: More Work With Capitalizing Titles of Things. Circle any letters in the titles that need capitalizing in the sentences below.

EXAMPLE: The poem "annabeel eee" was written about Poe's wife.

- through the looking glass*, by Lewis Carroll, has become a classic book.
- I try to read the *denver post* in the bus on the way to work.
- The longest running play in the United States is *chorus line*.
- My counselor signed me up for english I next year.
- I enjoyed reading *that was then, this is now*.
- Puppets were used in the movie *the muppets take manhattan*.
- My brother has taken both french and latin in high school.
- sports afield* is a magazine for people who enjoy hunting.
- One of Michael Jackson's gold records is "the girl is mine."
- Thomas Gainsborough painted *the blue boy*.

27.3 Capitals for Names of Specific Things

The names of *specific* things—such as special days, events, or objects—should always be capitalized.

CAPITALS FOR SPECIFIC THINGS	
Historical Periods, Events, and Documents	Industrial Revolution, Civil War, Declaration of Independence
Days, Months, and Holidays	Saturday, October, Thanksgiving
Organizations and Schools	Girl Scouts, Miller Elementary School
Government Bodies and Political Parties	the Congress, the Republican Party
Races, Nationalities, and Languages	Eskimo, Chinese, French
Monuments, Memorials, and Buildings	Statue of Liberty, the Vietnam Memorial, the Eiffel Tower
Religious Faiths	Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism
Awards	Oscars, Caldecott Medal
Air, Sea, Space, and Land Craft	<i>Double Eagle II, Lusitania, Skylab 2, Mustang</i>

EXERCISE A: Using Capitals for the Names of Specific Things. Underline the letters of words requiring capitals in the sentences below.

EXAMPLE: The liberty bell was cracked in september of 1752.

- Four presidents are sculptured in the monument at mount rushmore.
- One new form of mass transit is the system called amtrak.
- memorial day is usually celebrated on the last monday in may.
- Most people in turkey are muslims.
- In somalia, the official languages are somali and arabic.
- The concorde flew from New York to Paris in 3 hours 30 minutes.
- The tallest building in the world is the sears tower in Chicago.
- The symbol for the democratic party is the donkey.
- Satellites have been launched from the space shuttle *challenger*.
- A woman is now a member of the supreme court.

EXERCISE B: More Work Capitalizing Specific Things. In each pair, one item is general and one is specific. Underline the letters in the specific item that need capitalizing.

EXAMPLE: a lawyer's contract the equal rights amendment

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| 1. a single-engine plane | the spirit of st. louis |
| 2. the medal of honor | an achievement award |
| 3. a conservative group | the republican party |
| 4. our elected group | the congress |
| 5. father's day | a day for fathers |
| 6. bill of rights | a list of guaranteed rights |
| 7. a church group | christians |
| 8. the sewing group | national sewing association |
| 9. the model t | an old car |
| 10. june | the month for weddings |

27.1 Capitals for Sentences and the Word I

Capital letters signal the start of sentences and important words. A capital always begins the first word of a sentence whether it is a statement, question, or direct quotation. Also the word *I* is always capitalized.

CAPITALS USED WITH SENTENCES AND THE WORD I	
Always Capitalize:	Examples
the first word in a sentence	Raccoons got into the trash last night. Where will the signal come from?
the first word in a direct quotation	Mike said, "The lawn needs water." "If I do it," Jan said, "will you pay me?"
the word <i>I</i>	<i>I</i> wondered if <i>I</i> had enough time.

EXERCISE A: Using Capitals to Begin Sentences. Underline the word or words that should be capitalized in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: the boys asked, "can we go to the movies?"

1. when i was younger, i took lessons on the clarinet.
2. clipper ships were built with tall masts and sharp lines.
3. "crocodile hide," our teacher said, "is sometimes made into leather."
4. she asked, "does the recipe call for brown sugar?"
5. i will do it only if i have the proper safety equipment.
6. my mother asked, "can you help me vacuum the family room?"
7. the reporter noted, "killer bees have been found in the United States."
8. i have several valuable stamps in a collection i started last year.
9. "when i was a boy," my grandfather recalled, "i loved to play leapfrog."
10. our speaker said, "a nutritious diet is important to your health."

EXERCISE B: More Work with Capital Letters. Complete each blank with an appropriate word or words. Capitalize the word if necessary.

EXAMPLE: Mother said, "Bread is on sale at the market."

1. _____ wants to go to the beach with us.
2. Mother asked, "_____ should I serve dinner?"
3. You can get Vitamin C from _____.
4. I said, "_____ is my favorite food."
5. Either _____ go or you go, but we can't both go.
6. "_____ topic have you chosen for your report?" the teacher asked.
7. _____ told her, "_____ can't decide on a subject."
8. Our _____ broke down and had to be repaired.
9. "On Halloween," Nan said, "_____ start trick-or-treating about seven."
10. _____ are a fast form of transportation.